

## **SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

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for the **State Administration, Public Retirement Systems, and  
Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee (SAIC)**

September 9, 1999

### Veterans' Burial Issues

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|--------------|---|
| 1995 Session | committee bill to help counties meet cost of \$70 headstones, county to pay first \$30, state to pay difference                   |
| 1997 Session | \$10,000 appropriation from veterans' license plate fees for Eastern Montana Veterans' Cemetery                                   |
| 1999 Session | committee bill to clarify original intent of the 1995 bill on headstone costs, and other provisions related to burial of veterans |

### Veterans' Nursing Home Issues

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|-----------------|--|
| 1993-94 Interim | assessed and monitored need and progress on building a second state veteran nursing home in Glendive   |
| 1995-96 Interim | examined cost and per diem rates for a nursing home bed in Columbia Falls and Glendive nursing homes   |
| 1997-98 Interim | reviewed changing characteristics of veteran nursing home population and special needs for treatment of Alzheimer, acute alcoholism, mental health |

### Veterans Housing Issues

- 1995 Session study resolution urging the Department of Commerce to examine housing issues for veterans, urging department to include a variable for tracking veterans' needs in its survey, urging development of programs to help meet veterans' special needs  
(Report published October of 1996)



### VA Benefit Issues

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|-----------------|---|
| 1995-96 Interim | letter opposing VA proposal to consolidate Helena's regional VA administration with Phoenix and Sioux Falls |
| 1997-98 Interim | monitored Helena VA's benefit administration, changes, and other services                                   |

### Veterans' Preference

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|-------------------|---|
| 1995-1996 Interim | letter to governor urging state agencies to comply with veterans' preference laws |
| 1997 Session      | Rep. Pavlovich's bill to strengthen preference laws, tabled                       |
| 1999 Session      | committee bill strengthening preference laws, passed                              |

### National Guard Issues

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|--------------|---|
| 1998 Session | Committee bill to allow tuition and fee waivers at universities for surviving dependents of Guardmember killed on state duty  |
|              | Committee bill to allow Department of Military Affairs to administer a scholarship program for students joining the National Guard, tuition and fee waiver discretionary for Board of Regents |
| 1999 Session | Committee bill for special license plates for National Guard veterans as well as for Legion of Valor members  |

### Other Issues

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 1995-1996 Interim | Monitored and responded to federal tobacco regulation issues   |
| 1995-1996 Interim | Responded to concerns about state residency requirements for Director's position for Veterans' Employment and Training   |
| 1999 Session      | Supported HB2 general funding for \$66,000 to National WWII Memorial (\$1 donation for each Montanan who served in WWII) |
|                   | Committee bill to provide resident or nonresident Legion of Valor members with a conservation fishing license            |